

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize Secretary José Antonio Meade Kuribreña.

CONDOLENCES TO TAIWAN

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 12, 2016

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letter:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 12, 2016.

Hon. AMBASSADOR SHEN,
Washington, DC.

DEAR AMBASSADOR SHEN: I write to you today to send my condolences for the loss of precious human lives and destruction caused by the earthquake in the city of Tainan on Saturday, February 6, 2016. Our nations share a long and rich relationship that makes our respective nations stronger, and facilitates the spread of the benefits of liberty throughout the world.

Through trade and the promotion of peaceful resolutions in the Asia-Pacific region, Taiwan has become a trusted ally of the United States. I firmly believe that our bond is stronger than ever. In this time of tragedy and loss, know that our citizens grieve with yours. Our hearts and prayers are with you, and we stand ready to offer assistance and our continued friendship as you mourn and recover.

Sincerely,

STEVE KING,
Member of Congress.

TRIBUTE TO ABIGAYIL CLARK

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 12, 2016

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of Abigayil Clark, a Bland County High School senior who has also been with the Bland Fire Department for a little more than two years. Remarkably, this young woman recently saved the life of a fellow firefighter, Zeke Harman.

The Bland County Messenger newspaper reports that around midnight on January 21, the two were among a group of firefighters responding to a fatal house fire. Harman began attacking the fire with the heavy fire hose, with Clark close behind. All of a sudden, Clark says, Harman abruptly turned off the hose before stumbling a few steps and falling directly into the fire.

Clark attempted to help Harman out of the fire, but quickly realized he was not going to get up on his own. She then picked him up and carried him approximately 15 feet before taking off their masks. Upon doing so, she observed that Harman was unconscious and not breathing. She was preparing to begin performing CPR when Harman regained consciousness.

Harman and Clark then recognized they were close enough to the burning residence that, if it were to collapse, they both would be injured. Clark again picked up Harman and helped get them both to safety.

"If it wasn't for her, I don't know what I would have done, honestly," Harman said. "I'm grateful, very, very grateful."

The newspaper reports Harman's tests at the Wythe County Community Hospital came back normal, and that both returned to running calls as members of the Bland County fire and rescue squads the very next day.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Abigayil Clark for her bravery in this situation. It is clear this young woman responded in fine fashion, and truly rose to the occasion. I thank her for her efforts, and also thank Zeke Harman, their fellow firefighters, and other emergency personnel for their important work to help keep safe those in their communities.

HONORING HARRISON COLBERT

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 12, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harrison Colbert from Steelville, Missouri for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. The Eagle Scout Award is the highest honor attainable in Boy Scouts. Only a small percentage of Boy Scouts reach the level of Eagle Scout, which requires years of dedicated effort.

Community service, leadership, and family values are the most important aspects of scouting, and are essential to becoming an Eagle Scout. After winning a difficult battle with cancer seven years ago, Harrison grew from this struggle into the exceptional young man he is today. He is a proud American, a helpful, honorable citizen, a strong Christian, and a leader by example. Harrison's Eagle Scout project involved collecting photos of tombstones in the Steelville Cemetery and uploading them to an online data base, known as Billion Graves, accessible to the public so individuals could locate their loved ones. Prior to his project, the Steelville Cemetery had no records of who was buried where, or any listing of the deceased whatsoever. Harrison's contributions and commitment to the Steelville community have helped prepare him as a leader who will excel in his future collegiate and professional careers.

It is my great pleasure to congratulate Harrison Colbert on his accomplishment of becoming an Eagle Scout before the U.S. House of Representatives.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO EXPAND EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 12, 2016

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, today Congressman COLLIN PETERSON and I introduced legislation that will expand employee ownership throughout America. This legislation is a bold proposal that, if enacted, will put management and labor on the same side, thus fostering cooperation rather than conflict.

President Jefferson recognized ownership of private property as the keystone of a free society. Only a few decades after Jefferson's presidency, Abraham Lincoln pushed for, and Con-

gress delivered, the Homestead Act of 1862, which has proven to be one of the most important manifestations of Jefferson's vision for broad-based ownership of property. More recently, President Reagan supported employee stock ownership, labeling it "the next logical step . . . a path that benefits a free people."

The belief that all citizens should be able to acquire property and wealth made our country the envy of the world. This legislation is consistent with the vision of our founding fathers because it empowers employees—not just a select few at the top of the management structure—to share in the development, success, and profits of a company. Our proposal would enhance accountability, productivity, and prosperity by making sure all employees—both inside and outside of management—keep an eye toward the long-term interests of their company.

Our proposal would provide certain tax benefits to employees who are recipients of a broad distribution of voting company stock, so long as that stock is held for a specified amount of time. Specifically, when an employer makes an across-the-board distribution of voting stock, the value of the grant would not be counted as an employee's taxable income, provided that the same number of shares is granted to every employee and the stock is held for five years. If held for ten years, employee stockholders can begin to sell or exchange a portion of their stock for other similarly-priced stock free of capital gains. Thus, after 20 years, the stock would be totally tax free.

The provisions of this bill are carefully crafted to allow for the empowerment of employees and the diversification of an employee's portfolio. The phase-in of the capital-gains-free treatment is meant to ensure that the company stock will not simply be dumped all at once.

One of the most important aspects of my bill is that it would, unlike traditional ESOPs, allow employees to directly own the stock granted to them, including all voting rights granted to any other normal stockholder. This would empower employees to exercise oversight of their managers in an enlightened and responsible manner, and create a spirit of corporate unity rather than the adversarial labor-versus-management environment that is all too pervasive in corporate America today. It also gives the American working people the chance to benefit not just from physical and mental labor, but to profit from capital—from corporate income, as well as their own time and energy.

I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation and let us lead the way forward to prosperity for millions of Americans in the years to come.

HONORING JUNE JESSEE

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 12, 2016

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of June Jessee, the daughter of Matt and Genny Jessee who passed away earlier this month at the age of three.

Soon after June was born, she was diagnosed with a catastrophic form of epilepsy